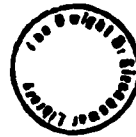


SECRET

BERLIN

Current Soviet tactics are to seek to win Berlin by whittling away at the Western position to make it hard for us to demonstrate that the real issue in each minor incident is the survival of free Berlin. Our immediate problem is to counter these "salami tactics". Since our restrictions on East German travel and the announcement of the Federal Republic's intention to terminate the interzonal trade agreement, Berlin has been relatively quiet. We are continuing our contingency planning for measures to maintain the status of, and access to, Berlin. We have tried in every way possible to convince the Soviets that as a last resort we would fight for Berlin. Vice President Nixon's and President-Elect Kennedy's campaign statements were very helpful in this regard as was the article that quoted the President-Elect as saying, "The world should know that we will fight for Berlin". Within the near future Moscow will probably launch a new drive for negotiations hoping to make Berlin into what it calls a "free city". No one has yet been able to devise an acceptable and negotiable formula to solve the Berlin problem separate from a solution for Germany as a whole. The best hope may lie in agreement with the Soviets on more basic issues.



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